

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 00243 151456Z POSS DUPE
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0243

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, YE
SUBJECT: SAUDI EFFORTS WITH PARACHUTE LEADER ABD AL-ALIM

DURING JAN. 15 MEETING, SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE SALIH HUDAYAN
TOLD ME THAT HE AND HIS MISSION ARE MAKING SPECIAL EFFORTS
TO INFLUENCE PARACHUTE COMMANDER ABD AL-ALIM, WHO IS
ALSO THIRD MEMBER OF COMMAND COUNCIL. SALIH ADMITTED IN
PAST SAUDIS WERE NOT SURE OF ALIM'S POLITICAL LEANINGS
BUT HAVE NOW DECIDED THAT FOR THE STABILITY OF THE COUNTRY
THE YEMENI ARMY WORK TOGETHER AND IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT
THAT ABD AL-ALIM SHOULD BE DEALT WITH. SALIH SAID THAT
SAUDIS ARE NOW PREPARING TO TRAIN MEMBERS OF THE PARA
TROOPS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND ALSO HERE. ANOTHER PROPOSAL
IS TO PROVIDE NEW EQUIPMENT FOR THAT UNIT.

2. COMMENT: AS SALIH POINTED OUT, SAUDIS IN PAST CON-
SIDERED ABD AL-ALIM PARTICULARLY UNRELIABLE. AS THE HIGHEST
RANKING SHAFAI OFFICER IN THE YEMENI ARMY AND COMMANDER OF A
RELATIVELY CRACK UNIT COMPOSED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF SHAFAIS, THE
SAUDIS ARE WISE TO TRY TO "COURT" ABD AL-ALIM.
WHILE HE ALONE CANNOT MAKE TROUBLE, ABD ALIM, IN COLLUSION WITH
OTHERS, COULD BE A THREAT, PARTICULARLY GIVEN HIS
CHARISMA AND HIGH DEGREE OF INTELLIGENCE.
SCOTES

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